

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus for igniting a combustible medium in a tubular member in an earth borehole in a subterranean formation comprising:

an igniter assembly, said igniter assembly comprising: a support; a catalytic material carried by said support, said catalytic material comprising a substance which reacts with a hydrogen-containing gas in the presence of an oxidizing gas to produce an exothermic reaction and a temperature sufficient to cause auto ignition of said hydrogen-containing gas to produce a flame;

a source of said hydrogen-containing gas; and a source of said oxidizing gas; and

a tubular member disposable in said borehole, said igniter assembly being positioned in said tubular member.

2. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said igniter assembly comprises an elongate tubular housing having a first end and a second end, said catalytic material being disposed in said tubular housing, said hydrogen-containing gas and said oxidizing gas being introduced into said first end of said housing, said hydrogen-containing gas being introduced under

pressure into said tubular housing.

3. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said catalytic material is in the form of a tube disposed in said tubular housing.

4. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein said tube of catalytic material comprises a platinum group metal carried on a metallic foam structure.

5. **(Withdrawn)** The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein said source of hydrogen- containing gas comprises a feed tube, said feed tube having an end opening axially displaced from said tube of catalytic material and there is a Venturi-type tube attached to said tubular housing and facing said end opening of said feed tube.

6. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said source of air comprises ambient air.

7. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said source of air comprises forced air.

8. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein there are a plurality of igniter assemblies positioned in said tubular member and staggered there along, each of said igniter assemblies being associated with a burner.

9. **(Withdrawn)** An apparatus for igniting a combustible medium issuing from an opening in a flare stack comprising:

an igniter assembly, said igniter assembly comprising:

a support;

a catalytic material carried by said support, said catalytic material comprising a substance which reacts with a hydrogen-containing gas in the presence of an oxidizing gas to produce an exothermic reaction and a temperature sufficient to cause auto ignition of hydrogen-containing gas; a source of said hydrogen-containing gas; and

a source of said oxidizing gas; and

a mount for positioning said igniter assembly adjacent said opening in said flare stack.

10. **(Withdrawn)** The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said igniter assembly comprises an elongate tubular housing having a first end and a second end, said catalytic material being disposed in said tubular housing, said hydrogen-containing gas and said oxidizing gas being introduced into said first end of said housing, said hydrogen-containing gas being introduced under pressure into said tubular housing.

11. **(Withdrawn)** The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein said catalytic material is in the form of a tube.

12. **(Withdrawn)** The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein said tube of catalytic material comprises a platinum group metal carried on a metallic foam structure.

13. **(Withdrawn)** The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein said source of hydrogen- containing gas comprises a feed tube, said feed tube having an end opening axially displaced from said tube of catalytic material and there is a Venturi-type tube attached to said tubular housing and facing said end opening of said feed tube.

14. **(Withdrawn)** The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said source of air comprises ambient air.

15. **(Withdrawn)** The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said source of air comprises forced air.

16. **(Withdrawn)** The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said mount comprises a bracket.

17. **(Withdrawn)** The apparatus of any of Claims 1 or 16, wherein said igniter assembly comprises an elongate tubular housing, said catalytic material being disposed in said tubular housing, said hydrogen-containing gas being introduced under pressure into said tubular housing at a

pressure of between 0.1 and 3 psi.

18. **(Withdrawn)** The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein said catalytic material is in the form of a tube.

19. **(Withdrawn)** An igniter assembly comprising:

a tubular housing having a first end and a second end;

a catalytic material disposed in said tubular housing; said catalytic material comprising a substance which reacts with a hydrogen-containing gas in the presence of an oxidizing gas to produce an exothermic reaction and a temperature sufficient to cause auto ignition of the hydrogen in said hydrogen-containing gas;

a source of hydrogen-containing gas, said source of hydrogen-containing gas comprising a tubular section for introducing said hydrogen-containing gas into said first end of said tubular housing; and

a source of oxidizing gas for admixing with said hydrogen-containing gas.

20. **(Withdrawn)** The igniter assembly of Claim 19, wherein said catalytic material is in the form of a tube disposed in said tubular housing.